

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is amended. Claims 1-14 are pending.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraph 4, claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 7 is amended in light of the Examiner's comments, and accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, at page 3, numbered paragraph 6, claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,113,298 to Mochizuki. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest:

receiving identification numbers of each of the printers;

receiving a network address of a selected printer corresponding to a predetermined identification number from among the received identification numbers; and

transmitting print data to the selected printer to perform the printing process,

as recited in independent claim 1.

Mochizuki discusses a host 10 that includes a printer retrieval unit 48 sending a broadcast printer retrieval packet to retrieve a printer from a network. The printer retrieval packet includes information required for the execution of communication between the printer and the host, such as the host IP address and port number. When the packet is received at a printer, the printer sends a response packet to the host, the response packet including information required for communication between the host 10 and the printer, such as the printer IP address and the port number.

However, while Mochizuki does discuss receiving a network address and receiving a port number of a printer, Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest receiving identification numbers of each of the printers, such as the port numbers, and then receiving a network address of a

selected printer corresponding to a predetermined identification number from among the received identification numbers. In Mochizuki, the identification numbers, i.e., the port numbers, and the printer ID address are both sent at the same time and in the same printer response packet to the host 10. However, in Mochizuki, the port numbers of the printers connected to the network are not first received by the host 10 and then the network address of a selected printer corresponding to a predetermined identification number from among the received identification numbers is received by the host 10. The printer ID address and the port numbers are sent at the same time. Therefore, Mochizuki does not suggest receiving a network address of a selected printer corresponding to a predetermined port number from among the already-received port numbers.

Therefore, as Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest “receiving identification numbers of each of the printers; receiving a network address of a selected printer corresponding to a predetermined identification number from among the received identification numbers; and transmitting print data to the selected printer to perform the printing process,” as recited in independent claim 1, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest:

- a port setting portion which requests the printers to transmit identification numbers in response to a printer port set request and which stores the received identification numbers;

- an identification number transmitting portion which transmits the requested identification numbers;

- a request signal generating portion which generates an address request signal requesting a network address of a specific printer among the printers having sent the identification numbers in response to a print request and which outputs the generated address request signal;

- an address transmitting portion which transmits the network address in response to the address request signal,

as recited in amended independent claim 7.

As discussed above, Mochizuki discusses requesting the printers to transmit identification numbers and receiving the identification numbers. However, Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest generating an address request signal requesting a network address of a specific printer among the printers in response to a print request. Mochizuki discusses requesting printer ID addresses from a number of printers, but Mochizuki does not discuss or

suggest generating an address request signal requesting a network address of a specific printer among the printers connected to the network that have sent the identification numbers.

In contrast, the present invention of claim 7, for example, requests a network address of a specific printer, for example, a printer having a specific port number, from among the printers connected to the network. Mochizuki, however, does not suggest generating an address request signal requesting a network address of a specific printer from among the printers that have already send the identification numbers.

Therefore, Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest all the features of amended independent claim 7. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

In addition, Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest “determining a corresponding printer by generating an address request signal which includes specifying identification information, transmitting the address requesting signal to printers connected to the network, checking whether the specifying identification information matches printer identification information of a printer connected to the network, a printer having printer identification information which matches the specifying identification information being the corresponding printer,” as recited in independent claim 13. Therefore, claim 13 patentably distinguishes over the reference relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 and 8-11 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 7 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the reference relied upon. For example, claim 3 recites that “the network address is one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, an Internet packet exchange (IPX) address, and a media access control (MAC) address.” Therefore, claims 2-5 and 8-11 patentably distinguish over the reference relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at page 7, numbered paragraph 8, claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,839,717 to Motoyama et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Mochizuki does not discuss or suggest all the features of independent claims 1 and 7. Motoyama fails to make up for the deficiencies in Mochizuki. Therefore, claim 1 and 7 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon.

Claims 6 and 12 depend directly from independent claims 1 and 7 and include all the features of their respective independent claims, plus additional features. Therefore, claims 6 and 12 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 7 is amended. Claims 1-14 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

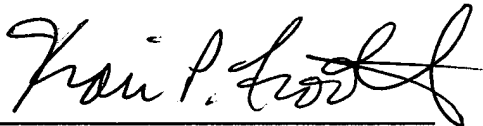
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 27, 2008

By:



Kari P. Footland
Registration No. 55,187

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501